

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant has reviewed and considered the final Office Action mailed on August 9, 2007, and the references cited therewith. Claims 3-8, 22, 23, 25, 27, and 31-40 are pending. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

Telephone Interview with Examiner

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the telephone interview of October 25, 2007. During the interview, Applicant's attorney and the Examiner discussed the Final Office Action, and the subsequently issued Advisory Action and Notice of Noncompliant Amendment received after Applicant's submission of an After-Final Amendment on August 16, 2007. The claim amendments made by the Applicant in the After-Final Amendment incorporated the limitations from Claims 24 and 25 that the Examiner had "objected to" in the Final Office Action. Contrary to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment, the amendments to Claims 8 and 31 did not incorporate limitations from non-elected species because these limitations were present in claims that were pending in the application prior to the issuance of the Final Office Action.

Following consideration of these issues during the telephone interview, the Examiner agreed that a Notice of Allowance should have been issued instead of the Advisory Action and Notice of Noncompliant Amendment. Applicant requested that the Examiner withhold the Notice of Allowance until after the Applicant had submitted the present RCE and IDS.

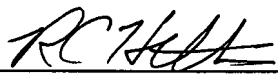
Applicant respectfully requests that the references cited in the IDS be considered and that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance for the pending claims.

CONCLUSION

If a Petition for Extension of Time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) is required, the petition is herewith made. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment made with this Office Action, to Deposit Account Number 50-0326.

In light of all the foregoing, believing that all things raised in Examiner's August 9, 2007 Office Action have been addressed, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the prior rejections and objections, as well as allowance of the claims and passage of the application to issue. If the Examiner would care to discuss any remaining matters by phone, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at 214.758.6641.

Respectfully submitted,



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